

PLAIN TALKS



1943





With The Colors



AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1943

★ ★ IN THE ARMY 208 ★ ★ ★ IN THE NAVY 95 ★ ★ ★ IN THE MARINES 7 ★ ★ ★ TOTAL 310 ★ ★

ARMY

Akins, M. O., Baton Rouge
Allgood, G. I., Lake Charles
Allison, Mildred, Beaumont
Anawaty, P. M., Beaumont
Andrews, J. L., Baton Rouge
Andrus, L., Lake Charles
Atkins, J. W., Jr., Beaumont
Bacon, R. C., Beaumont
Baden, H. A., Baton Rouge
Baker, P. W., Port Arthur
Ball, W. A., Jr., Beaumont
Barron, C. B., Beaumont
Benton, C. M., Baton Rouge
Blanchard, H. T., Baton Rouge
★ Blanchard, R. A., Baton Rouge
Bloxom, R. M., Lake Charles
Bobino, Willie, Beaumont
Bolton, F. L., Winnie
Bonura, C. J., Beaumont
Braswell, J. L., Beaumont
Breaux, M. L., Port Arthur
Briggs, C. W., Baton Rouge
Brock, K. P., Liberty
Brossett, F., Beaumont
Brown, L. J., Lafayette
Bush, L., Port Arthur
Bushnell, K., Beaumont
Cain, D., Baton Rouge
Canizaro, B. G., Beaumont
Carnes, G. L., Jr., Beaumont
Carpenter, A. W., Baton Rouge
Carpenter, N. G., Lake Charles
Carter, W. C., Beaumont
Cassels, J. B., Nederland
Charlton, H. S., Baton Rouge
Christian, L. C., Jr., Lake Charles
Clement, J. L., Baton Rouge
Cole, E., Beaumont
Cole, H. S., Lake Charles
Colyer, C. M., Lake Charles
Cook, Katherine, Baton Rouge
Cox, C. B., Beaumont
Cryer, E. M., Port Arthur
Cummins, L. C., Navasota
Daigre, F. B., Baton Rouge
Davis, S. E., Baton Rouge
Davis, V. E., Beaumont
Denison, H., Lake Charles
Denham, P., Baton Rouge
Deutser, H. J., Jr., Beaumont
Dickerson, H. R., Beaumont
Donald, H. P., Beaumont
Dorsey, J., Baton Rouge
Duff, C. T., Jr., Beaumont
Ebow, S., Lafayette
Echart, J. F., Beaumont
Elkins, F., Port Arthur
Elkins, J. A., Alvin
Ellis, J. A., Baton Rouge
Ellis, R. H., Beaumont
Fairchild, R. M., Baton Rouge
Faust, L. R., Baton Rouge
Faver, W. V., Jr., Beaumont
Fitch, N. C., Beaumont
Fontenot, W. E., Lake Charles
Ford, L. M., Lake Charles
Ford, W. H., Jennings
Franques, R., Lake Charles
Fredericks, J. A., Baton Rouge
Gaines, H., Baton Rouge
Garrett, T. B., Beaumont
Gary, C. J., Lake Charles
Gary, T., Beaumont
Geiger, G. A., Beaumont
Glover, C. A., Baton Rouge
Goodwin, L., Lake Charles
Graves, J. T., Baton Rouge
Griner, J. E., Jr., Beaumont

Handley, G. P., Lake Charles
Harrell, L. W., Baton Rouge
Harrington, J. E., Baton Rouge
Hays, R. H., Baton Rouge
Hebert, A. L., Baton Rouge
Hebert, H. J., Port Arthur
Hebert, S. J., Port Arthur
Hemphill, J. S., Orange
Henderson, J. M., Baton Rouge
Henry, J. M., Beaumont
Herndon, W. H., Jr., Baton Rouge
Hodges, T. T., Orange
Holman, J. T., Lake Charles
Holmes, M. R., Baton Rouge
Hughey, A., Port Arthur
Humphries, B. H., Baton Rouge
Hunter, O., Baton Rouge
Inglehart, J. K., Huntsville
Jacobs, L. J., Lafayette
Jameson, Agnes, Navasota
Jeanne, G. S., Lake Charles
Jensen, M. N., Beaumont
Johnson, A. J., Orange
Johnson, C. E., Beaumont
Jones, J. K., Beaumont
Josey, J. L., Beaumont
Jumel, K. L., Baton Rouge
Kaltwasser, E. E., Huntsville
Kernan, J. A., Jr., Baton Rouge
Kirkwood, R., Jr., Baton Rouge
Kornegay, F., Liberty
Krebs, S. F., Beaumont
Kuntze, J. W., Port Arthur
Ladue, W., Baton Rouge
Lahaye, E. J., Port Arthur
Landry, L. P., Baton Rouge
Langford, A. T., Navasota
Laughlin, D., Port Arthur
Lea, P. H., Liberty
Lee, M. P., Baton Rouge
Leonhardy, Mary, Baton Rouge
Lewis, J. L., Baton Rouge
Linscomb, D. B., Orange
Linscomb, T., Orange
Little, W. K., Baton Rouge
Madigan, E. P., Baton Rouge
Maris, E. L., Franklin
Martin, S. T., Beaumont
Mary, A. J., Baton Rouge
May, J. M., Jr., Baton Rouge
McAlpine, R. A., Beaumont
McCann, J. R., Beaumont
McClelland, J. H., Jr., Beaumont
McGee, V. V., Port Arthur
McGraw, R. A., Baton Rouge
McGuire, D. L., Baton Rouge
McKenzie, S. A., Baton Rouge
Merrick, O., Baton Rouge
Middleton, F. W., Jr., Baton R.
Mire, L. S., Baton Rouge
Moore, Docia, Orange
Morgan, W. P., Baton Rouge
Murchison, W. O., Beaumont
Murray, G. R., Beaumont
Murray, R. J., Orange
Muse, C. H., Conroe
Nantz, Fern, Beaumont
Nevils, E. H., Beaumont
Northcutt, H. H., Beaumont
Nott, L. W., Port Arthur
Odom, B. Y., Beaumont
Patin, J. F., Baton Rouge
Paul, M. C., Beaumont
Pennington, R. C., Baton Rouge
Petkovsek, R. S., Beaumont
Pfeiffer, C. A., Beaumont
Pharr, W. W., Beaumont
Pool, V. F., Navasota
Porter, Bobbie, Beaumont

Pugh, W. A., Beaumont
Richardson, B. A., Alvin
Richardson, G. W., Baton Rouge
Richardson, J. P., Beaumont
Richardson, W. B., Beaumont
Riley, T. N., Beaumont
Riser, W. A., Port Arthur
Risher, L. M., Jr., Jennings
Romano, L. J., Beaumont
Rogers, W., Baton Rouge
Sadler, L. A., Calvert
Sanders, H. C., Orange
Sanchez, L. G., Baton Rouge
Schaefer, C. F., Navasota
Schiller, A. L., Navasota
Sedberry, J. M., Jr., Beaumont
Shreve, J. W., Baton Rouge
Small, S. B., Beaumont
Smith, D. E., Beaumont
Smith, M. D., Navasota
Spurlock, L. O., Beaumont
Sternberger, I. H., Baton Rouge
Stiteler, T. W., Beaumont
Stone, R. M., Navasota
Stovall, G. W., Baton Rouge
Strachn, C. H., Jr., Beaumont
Sullivan, L. A., Jr., Lake Charles
Sumrall, H., Baton Rouge
Taylor, A. H., Baton Rouge
Thompson, F. R., Jr., Baton Rouge
Thompson, L. L., Beaumont
Trice, J. T., Baton Rouge
True, J. G., Lake Charles
Turbeville, A. R., Lake Charles
Turner, F. L., Beaumont
Umphrey, S. B., Port Arthur
Vaughan, C. R., Port Arthur
Walker, D., Baton Rouge
Wall, H. J., Lafayette
Watson, A. N., Baton Rouge
Watson, J., Beaumont
Watson, J. H., Baton Rouge
Weller, F. R., Beaumont
Whipple, J. R., Lake Charles
Whitaker, E. B., Baton Rouge
Whitson, A. L., Beaumont
Wickey, J. R., Navasota
Wilkins, D. G., Lake Charles
Will, S. C., Port Arthur
Williams, H. A., Baton Rouge
Wofford, P. O., Beaumont
Wood, E. L., Conroe

NAVY

Adams, A. A., Jennings
Adams, C. D., Baton Rouge
Armstrong, F., Conroe
Atha, R. I., Beaumont
Baillio, E. M., Baton Rouge
Baird, A. W., Port Arthur
Barnes, F. E., Lake Charles
Bennett, R. E., Beaumont
Billodeaux, J. W., Jennings
Boles, C., Navasota
Boring, C. J., Navasota
Boudreaux, M. J., Lafayette
Buell, M. N., Baton Rouge
Burgess, R. L., Lake Charles
Campo, B. L., Jr., Baton Rouge
Carr, H. H., Beaumont
Cart, Z. T., Lake Charles
Carver, M. L., Lake Charles
Cazes, W. L., Baton Rouge
Chambers, C. E., Baton Rouge
Cole, J. W., Lake Charles
DeLamatyr, G. T., Baton Rouge
Doucet, C. W., Orange
Elms, H. A., Lake Charles

Ener, J. B., Beaumont
Ethell, G. K., Beaumont
Fabre, J. M., Baton Rouge
Farlow, J. C., Lake Charles
Fortenberry, C. A., Jr., Baton R.
Franklin, K., Calvert
Fugler, S. C., Baton Rouge
Garner, E. H., Port Arthur
Garon, D. V., Baton Rouge
Garrison, B. R., Baton Rouge
Garvey, C. C., Baton Rouge
Gautreaux, V. A., Baton Rouge
George, C. W., Baton Rouge
Griffith, D. W., Beaumont
Harder, Dorothy, Beaumont
Hargis, P. Q., Jasper
Heil, H. M., Beaumont
Hill, G. L., Maringouin
Hine, A. E., Jennings
Holland, V. L., Baton Rouge
Hurt, W. M., Beaumont
Johansen, A. J., Port Arthur
Johnston, J. C., Conroe
Jones, F. W., Beaumont
Lamm, J. W., Jr., Gonzales
Latimer, D. F., Baton Rouge
Lavergne, P., Jennings
LeBlanc, A. A., Lake Charles
Magee, H., Navasota
Manley, R. S., Beaumont
Marquette, P. J., Baton Rouge
Mashburn, A. G., Beaumont
Matens, J. K., Baton Rouge
McKnight, T. O., Jackson
Miller, W. K., Beaumont
Minton, D. W., Baton Rouge
Morrison, J. C., Baton Rouge
Morrison, D., Jasper
Munson, H. B., Jr., Baton Rouge
Netzer, C., Beaumont
Parker, W. H., Jr., Baton Rouge
Pearson, C. B., Baton Rouge
Pettepher, C. S., Baton Rouge
Poulson, A., Beaumont
Powledge, B., Navasota
Pratt, E. S., Baton Rouge
Redfield, W. R., Baton Rouge
Reese, R. F., Beaumont
Reeves, H. H., Lake Charles
Rice, G. N., Jr., Beaumont
Roberts, Jessie, Baton Rouge
Route, E., Baton Rouge
Rube, F. C., Baton Rouge
Shaddock, Ada, Beaumont
Smith, E. C., Beaumont
Stewart, D. C., Baton Rouge
Stracener, C. W., Beaumont
Stuart, Susie, Beaumont
Sturdivant, J. H., Beaumont
Terrell, J. L., High Island
Thompson, C. R., Jr., Baton Rouge
Thomson, W. A., Orange
Turley, E. G., Beaumont
Versen, M. A., Baton Rouge
Voorhies, P. B., Baton Rouge
Wallace, L. E., Baton Rouge
★ Warren, E. E., Conroe
West, E. G., Baton Rouge
Williams, G., Beaumont
Young, E. E., Beaumont

MARINES

Ballard, H. W., Baton Rouge
Bonnette, R. J., Jr., Baton Rouge
Doiron, J. T., Beaumont
Michel, K. V., Lake Charles
Read, W. A., Jr., Beaumont
Reed, H. H., Jennings
Sanchez, J. F., Baton Rouge

★ Died in line of duty.



She really doesn't know what it's all about.

* * *

She can't even imagine what a block-buster does to buildings and to the brains and bodies of human beings.

* * *

She can't picture what life's like in a fox-hole.

* * *

The death and destruction of modern war are, thank goodness, not of her world because she is just a lovely, little, American girl—that little girl buying War Stamps on this month's cover.

* * *

But she knows that now is the time for all good, little American girls to sacrifice; to make an extra investment in America's future.

* * *

And those of us who can imagine the horrors of war and understand the sacrifices those away at war are making, can do no less.

* * *

Let's make ours an extra War Savings Bond. Let's each one help make the Third War Loan Drive a success.

* * *

Our thanks to the cover-girl, Miss Suzanne Enderle, for permitting our photographers to catch her setting a good example, and to Hortense Morris, Beaumont cashier, for being on hand to make the sale.

THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR!

L. E. Thorne, manager of Port Arthur division, recently received the following letter from R. L. Rutan, mayor of Port Arthur, which we think is one of the finest compliments ever paid to a company such as ours.

Dear Mr. Thorne:

I have personally told you in my usual free and easy way how much I, in my office as mayor of the city of Port Arthur, and how much the city of Port Arthur have appreciated the wholehearted co-operation of the service rendered by the Gulf States Utilities company to the city of Port Arthur. Every time the city, whether through me as mayor, or through some other person has asked for help, I believe the Gulf States Utilities company has stepped up and done everything that was asked and usually much more.

I am writing especially now in regard to the services of H. C. LeVois and F. W. Merrill in our recent drainage survey by a committee of engineers from the Gulf States Utilities company, the Texas company, and the Gulf Oil corporation.

In addition to any remarks that I have made, you have, of course, seen the complimentary reports in the Port Arthur News. Our city manager made the comment that the combined knowledge of the six engineers was a specialized knowledge that could not have been obtained from any one drainage specialist anywhere. He impressed upon my mind the thought that the city of Port Arthur, with your company and other companies like it standing behind the city rendering service and co-operating, could become such a powerful force in local benefits in building a city such as we all would be proud of, that it almost staggers the imagination of what might be done, if we were all only big enough to vision the possibilities.

A formal letter of thanks is often very stilted; and yet, I do want to formally and officially, from me as mayor and from the city of Port Arthur, to you as the local representative of the Gulf States Utilities company extend our sincere thanks for the co-operation we have received.

Yours truly,

R. L. Rutan,

Mayor of City of Port Arthur



ARE WE PROUD?

Doesn't your chest swell with pride when you think of what our boys are doing over there—of the progress they are making? They aren't just lucky. They study and work and sweat and sacrifice. Their achievements don't just happen.

Those higher-ups directing our fight have done a wonderful job of planning campaigns and of delivering equipment. Their strategy at sea, in the air, and on the battle fields has kept our loss of lives and equipment very low compared to the losses of our enemies. We're proud of them.

And we're proud, too, of our girls in the WACS and WAVES and SPARS and WAFFS who have taken the place of the boys—that's an important job—to release the boys for active duty.

At home what are we doing? Can we be proud of what we're doing? We are doing our bit, but are we doing our best?

We're buying war bonds, but are we buying all we can?

We save some critical materials. Are we wasting any?

We're sacrificing conveniences and pleasures, but are there further sacrifices we could make to help win the war which we have failed so far to make?

Are we doing all we can on the job? Have we at every opportunity helped our customers to help themselves so manpower and materials can be conserved?

Have we helped by encouraging our own personal friends to learn how to prepare foods healthfully through our nutrition programs?

Are we serving our customers most efficiently and are we always courteous?

Are we doing the best we can with what we have and not passing the buck when things go wrong, blaming it on the war?

When our boys come back, let's be ready for them and let's make sure now that we can give as good account as possible of our stewardship of the company and its affairs as well as our personal affairs.

Let's do our very best every day and in every way so that we, too, can be proud when our boys come home, and we pray that that time will be soon when they come marching home again!

L. F. RIEGEL

General Sales Manager

PLAIN TALKS

VOL. 21 SEPTEMBER 30, 1943 No. 6

Published monthly by and for employees of Gulf States Utilities Company as a medium for a better appreciation of our responsibilities to each other and the public.

Editor: Kenneth Sutton, Beaumont.

Louisiana News: Bill Callender, Baton Rouge.

Texas News: Bill Hammond, Beaumont.

Art Editor: Jack Gammage, Beaumont.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 3 THRU 9

Fires are deadly and destructive. Make every week 'fire prevention week', in your home and on the job.

Simple precautions will safeguard you, your home, your loved ones, and maybe your job.

With the Colors . .



(SINCE THE LAST ISSUE)



TO THE ARMY — Johnnie L. Andrews, Baton Rouge production — Jack Watson, Beaumont storeroom — Robert M. Fairchild, Baton Rouge gas — Ivy H. Sternberger, Baton Rouge accounting — Wilson Rogers, Baton Rouge gas.

TO THE NAVY — Clarence R. Thompson, Jr., Baton Rouge production — Joe Stallcup, Lake Charles customer service — James C. Morrison, Baton Rouge claim — P. B. Voorhies, Baton Rouge production.

No pictures were available of Morrison, Sternberger, or Rogers.

CLEVER DEVICE PREVENTS BURNS



A new wrinkle in safety devices has been installed in the Baton Rouge appliance repair shop. As the picture shows, the "cage" is used to cool hot irons, which formerly constituted some danger to workers in the shop.

Before the rack was installed, irons which had been heated for testing purposes were left on the work tables, and there was a likelihood of someone getting burned. But now, after an iron has been tested, it is deposited within the cage, out of harm's way, until it cools.

The idea for the new device was no one person's brainchild, but resulted from some co-operative thinking by all those who use the shop, among them Jimmy Barbay, Morris Cunningham, and Georgie Ann Danos. The front of the cage is hinged, and opens out for easy access to the irons. Old refrigerator shelves were utilized for the front, sides and bottom, so that no new materials were needed.

Once again is necessity the mother of invention, and another safety hazard eliminated.

100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN LAFAYETTE DISTRICT

We don't know of any better time than now, during the Third War Loan Drive, in which to publish the picture below of the Lafayette District employees. They are participating 100% in the purchase of War Savings Bonds through payroll deductions.



(Left to right) Back row: A. B. Mitchell, S. B. Young, E. A. Comeaux, Freddy LeBlanc, Alex Hulin, J. J. Hopkins, and Sterling Vice. Front row: R. E. Compton, George Hall, P. G. Simon, M. M. Miller, Elmer Sudderth, Julian Perry, Wilfred Duhon, R. J. Broussard, R. A. DeBlanc, and N. L. Bourque. J. K. Powell and W. A. Grossie were not present when the picture was taken.

In the picture below, Fred Johnson, Lake Charles division customer service supervisor, is presenting a Minuteman Flag to district superintendent Pete Simon, Lafayette.



CARD OF THANKS

We are very grateful to his and our many dear friends for their kind sympathy and thoughtful deeds shown us during the loss of our dear son, Lt. Julian Murry Crapp.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Crapp and daughter, Mildred.

(Mr. Crapp is Navasota division meter-tester and repairman.)



"Uncle Rafe done got patriotic, Willy he sold your jugs to buy War Bonds."

VISITS OLD STOMPING GROUNDS



Lee McCurkin, president of the West Coast Power company, dropped in the Beaumont office to say hello and talk over old times with friends, while he was on vacation recently.

Mr. McClurkin worked with Gulf States sales department in Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Navasota until June, 1934.

In the picture, left to right; C. V. Merriam, R. E. Cargill, Mr. McClurkin, E. L. Robinson, and L. F. Riegel.

KEGLERS HARD AT IT

Beaumont Gulf Staters got down to the business of pin-toppling when the Reddy Kilowatt Bowling League opened its fall-winter season play Wednesday night, September 15.

Eight teams of men will battle it out every Wednesday night, for the next 21 weeks, under the restraining hands of league officers; President Roy Henckel and Vice-president Bob Guidry of production, and Secretary-treasurer H. V. Scanlon of accounting.

Two teams of lady Gulf Staters will carry on their own battle for supremacy, same time, same place.

DAVIS KEEPS 'EM POSTED



DAVIS

Fred Davis, Port Arthur chief clerk, knows that the fellows on the fighting front are always anxious and grateful for news from the home front and has, for some time, been sending company news letters to Port Arthur Gulf Staters in uniform. Fred sent us a copy of one of his monthly letters and it was one of the most interesting accounts we have ever read. Limited space will not permit us to publish the letter, which was quite long, but we'll bet the recipients were mighty happy to get their copies telling all the dope about the doings of their fellow-workers.

We know of several employees who are doing a good job corresponding with Gulf Staters in the service but, outside of Ethel Doan of Navasota who, we understand, writes regularly to quite a few Gulf Staters on the fighting front, and we haven't had any official word as to just what extent Ethel handles her correspondence, we know of no one else who has attempted this kind of letter-writing on the grand scale that Fred Davis has.

We think Fred is due a round of special applause, and that also goes for Ethel and any other employees who are unselfishly devoting some of their spare time to this grand work.

TRANSFERS



Lois McQueen, Beaumont, messenger to meter tester — Lenora White, Port Arthur customer accounts to Beaumont salesfloor — H. E. Norman, engineering, Liberty to Beaumont.

T. L. Burdette, service, Beaumont to Silsbee — V. E. Blanchette, Woodville service to Beaumont line — W. E. Tarver, service, Silsbee to Woodville.

JACKSON STUART GETS NEW JOB

J. F. Stuart recently said goodbye to friends in Baton Rouge and at Louisiana Station, where he was master electrician, to go to El Paso Electric company where he will be electrical engineer in charge of power and substation operations.



STUART

SECRET SERVICE ASKS HELP IN FOILING FORGERS

Safeguarding dependency allotment checks is one of the jobs of the United States Secret Service, but they need the help of all individuals entitled to receive such checks.

Millions of government checks are being sent by the army and the navy to dependents of soldiers and sailors, and a lot of them are being stolen from porches, mail boxes, or other places, and then forged. When that happens, those entitled to them may go without food or fuel, or suffer other hardship.

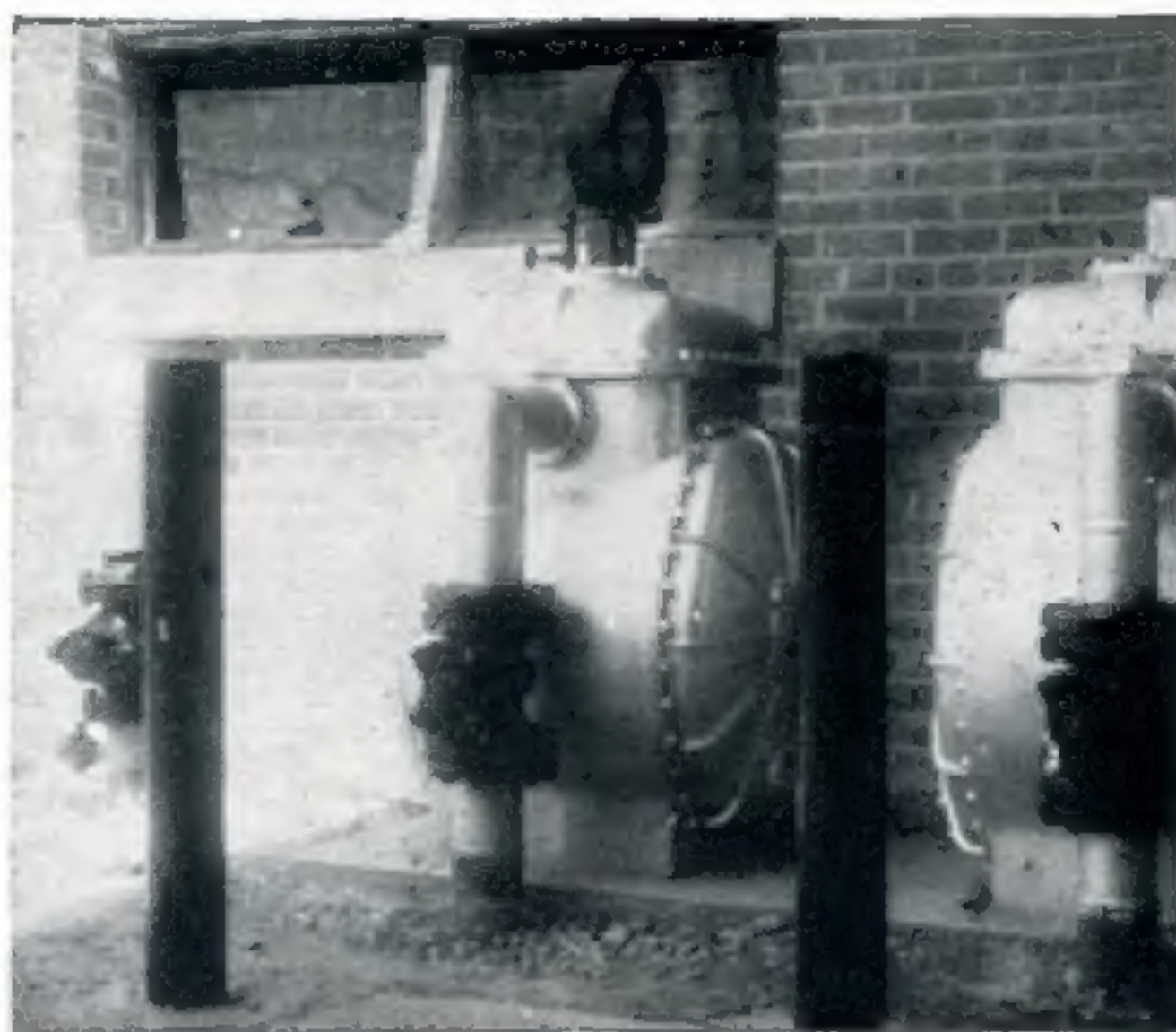
If you are one of those entitled to receive allotment checks from a relative in the armed forces, whether the loss of those checks would work a hardship on you or not, the Secret Service asks that you help stop check stealing by observing the following precautions:

1. Be sure some member of the family is at home when the check is expected.
2. Print your name plainly on your mail box and equip it with a lock.
3. Cash your checks in the same place each month. This makes identification easier.
4. Endorse your check only in the presence of the person you ask to cash it.

Do these things and you'll be a big help to the Secret Service in putting a stop to allotment check forging.

Plain Talks

BATON ROUGE GAS DEPT. SOLVES FUEL PROBLEM PRONTO



Shown above are the gas meters and regulator installation recently completed by the Baton Rouge gas department for Kean's Laundry, the largest in Louisiana's capitol city. Behind the picture lies an interesting story of the important role which natural gas is playing in wartime.

Kean's, formerly a heavy user of fuel oil in their boiler plant, was requested by the Office of the Petroleum Administrator for War to convert to natural gas, thereby effecting a substantial saving in fuel oil, which is in such great demand by the armed forces. The conversion was completed in record time, and gas service was connected to Kean's late in May.

Two other Baton Rouge firms, People's Laundry and the Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Works, have also recently made the conversion from fuel oil to gas. The combined annual revenue from these three new loads is expected to be around \$10,700, and the annual combined demand, around 54,600,000 cu. ft.

The installations are all of welded construction and are designed to carry pressures to the boilers ranging from two to five pounds. Orchids to the following foremen in the gas department who did such a neat job: F. Van Bush, E. R. Kent, J. A. Leteff and R. D. Smith.

BIRTHS



John H. Hill, Beaumont service, celebrated the September 7 arrival of a son, Johnny Eugene.

To the Fred Tenholders, on September 12, a daughter, Mary Elaine. Pop works in Beaumont storeroom.

WEDDING BELLS

Ruth Meekins, Cleveland cashier, became Mrs. Tom Holland on August 26.

ARE YOU THROWING TO RIGHT FIELD ?

Once upon a time there was a baseball team that was a *great* baseball team in every respect except for a somewhat eccentric short-stop named Joe.

* * *

This fellow Joe was a honey of a fielder. When he snagged a hot one you could bet it was properly snagged.

And he could throw as straight as an anti-tank gun.

His batting average, too, was above average. He was a swell fellow in every way except for one thing.

* * *

Joe's eccentricity was that he reserved the right as an independent American citizen to *throw* where he pleased. No baseball manager, he said, and no rule for sound, team-play baseball were going to dictate to him where to chunk the apple after he caught it.

* * *

So the team did *not* get credit for winning a lot of games they could have won if Joe had tossed the ball to second for a double play instead of throwing it to the right fielder just to prove his right to independence of thought and action.

* * *

About 1,000 members of our team, who are playing according to Uncle Sam's wishes in the game of war financing are being denied the satisfaction of winning the right to fly a company-wide minute man flag because some other members of the team insist on "throwing to the right fielder" when Uncle Sam, the manager, wants the "ball" to go to "second base".

* * *

Many of these are buying bonds regularly, but they are not buying them where, and in the manner, the manager, Uncle Sam, wants them to. It's their money and they don't like payroll deductions of any kind for any purpose. So they buy their bonds at banks or the post office and the "win" record of the Gulf States Utilities "team" is not so hot on payroll deductions for war bonds.

* * *

Plain Talks realizes that it's as dangerous to try to tell a fellow where to spend his money as it is to tell him how to treat his wife or raise his children. We have no quarrel with the independent "Joes" for feeling the way they do, but on behalf of Uncle Sam and other members of the team, we do want to appeal to them in all good humor to quit throwing to "right field" for the duration and toss at least a part of their bond money into regular payroll deductions so that the rest of us can lift up our heads proudly, and tell the world that our team, too, is playing according to the rules — playing the way our government wants us to play.

* * *

Only eighty per cent of employees are now investing *something* regularly in war savings bonds *through regular payroll deductions*.

* * *

Won't you, if you are not in that eighty per cent, lay aside that prejudice of yours against payroll deductions, and help our team's batting average by buying at least some of your bonds with payroll deductions? You can authorize an investment of as little as you want to.

* * *

Do it now, won't you?

NEW EMPLOYEES.....



A. WHITE



CROW



FORET



DAWKINS



P. WHITE



CARRUTH



MILLER



CRADDOCK



ANDRE



OVERTON



WATTS



CARTER



GAY



MC KENNON



E. WILLIAMS



BATEY



SMITH



FARRELL



GOODE



SMYTHE



LOUVIERE



HOWELL



SLOANE



DUNN



MYERS



HAMM



HENDERSON



I. WILLIAMS



OVERSTREET



LINSCOMB

Audrey White, Baton Rouge accounting — Glenese Crow, Baton Rouge accounting — Gladys Foret, Baton Rouge electric meter — Daisy Dawkins, Baton Rouge electric meter — Pauline White, Beaumont accounting — Natalie Carruth, Beaumont t & d — Ona Miller, Beaumont billing — Bernice Craddock, Beaumont t & d.

Ella Andre, Baton Rouge production — Clarissa Overton Baton Rouge accounting — James F. Watts, Baton Rouge production — Mary Carter, Baton Rouge electric meter — LaMerle Gay, Beaumont customer contact — Mildred McKennon, Beaumont engineering — Ernestine Williams, Beaumont accounting.

Lorraine Batey, Baton Rouge electric meter — D. E. Smith, Beaumont line — Laura Farrell, Baton Rouge accounting — Phillip L. Goode, Beaumont guard — Alvin C. Smythe, Jr., Beaumont line — Sedonia Louviere, Baton Rouge accounting — Dorothy Howell, Beaumont

customer contact — Hattie Sloane, Jennings t & d.

Melissa Dunn, Baton Rouge accounting — Pearl Myers, Baton Rouge electric meter — Mary Hamm, Beaumont meter — Mary Henderson, Jennings t & d — Iris Williams, Beaumont engineering — Leona Overstreet, Beaumont customer contact — Will Linscomb, Orange guard.

Pictures of the following new employees were no available in time for this issue — S. B. Farrar, Paxton J. Sholar, Jerry R. O'Brien, and Clifton Solieau, Baton Rouge production — Isaac D. Magruder and G. W. Unbehagen, Baton Rouge guards — Mildred Gill, Lake Charles customer accounts — Ruth Millet and Marion E. Beauchamp, Baton Rouge stenos — William P. Hancock, Navasota ice — John T. DeVall, Jennings t & d — Frances Williams, Lake Charles distribution — Theresa McFarland, Port Arthur customer accounts.

COVER GIRL FOR NATIONAL MAGAZINE



PICARD

The September 4 issue of Electrical World was of particular interest to Gulf Staters for two reasons.

A picture of Rose Picard, Beaumont customer contact representative, paused astride her bicycle reading a meter at a customer's residence, appeared on the cover.

And, on page 78, there was an article by President Nelson on the subject of employment of women in the war emergency.



—Electrical Merchandising

"Yes, this is the electric light company—we just rented our display space for the duration."

WINS BOND IN NATIONAL CONTEST

Add pleasant surprises. Such was that experienced by Willie Mae Adlong, Beaumont advertising steno, when friends told her on Monday morning recently that she had been announced on the Sunday night General Electric Hour Of Charm radio program as one of the thirty winners of \$50.00 War Savings Bonds in General Electric company's War Bond Contest. Participants submitted articles on the subject, "Why I Am Buying An Extra War Bond."



ADLONG

Bond Contest.

SAFETY SLOGAN CONTEST WINNERS



EDDY

"Sing A Victory Song Soon With A Safety First Tune"



WRIGHT

"The Safest Device In This Plant Is A Safe Man"



GENARO

"Practice Safety, Stay Awake—One Injury May Be Your Last Mistake"



POULSON

"Time Lost Accidents Grind The Axis Axes"



CORKERN

"Safety On Your Daily Beat Hastens The Axis Defeat"



GARMAN

"Protect Your Country—Buy Bonds Protect Yourself—Work Safely"



CART

June slogan:
"Safety - A Peacetime Should A Wartime Must"

July slogan:
"Infections Are Dangerous, Get First Aid For All Minor Injuries"

Winners of the June contest; first prize of \$5.00 in war stamps went to B. J. Cart, Jennings appliance repair. Prizes of \$1.00 in war stamps were won by M. C. Corkern, Jr., Baton Rouge accounting; Dan Poulson, Beaumont engineering; and M. C. Garman, Jennings substation.

In the July contest, Lenore Eddy of Lake Charles accounting and J. C. Genaro of Beaumont accounting tied for first place and each received a prize of \$3.00 in war stamps. Prizes of \$1.00 in war stamps were won by Leah Vinson, Trinity accounting; District Superintendent R. T. Wright of Huntsville; and B. J. Cart who came back as a two-time winner.

No picture was available of Leah Vinson whose winning slogan was, "Safty First Is Habit-forming, Form The Habit".

The Safety Department has announced that winners in the August contest are; E. B. Williams, Huntsville ice; C. L. Cain, Jennings substation; V. Westh, Baton Rouge production; and Jimmie Barrick, Baton Rouge gas engineering. Picture and details will appear in next issue of Plain Talks.

YOU'VE NO TURTLE-BACK HAT AND BADGE! WELL - SO WHAT?

If you think that, as an employee of the electrical industry, you aren't a vital cog in a vital war service—

If, just because the government hasn't awarded Gulf States a lot of efficiency "E's", and Maritime "M's", you think electric service isn't playing an important part in fighting the war, then you have another think coming.

Ship launchings, tanks and planes running off production lines, shells and other materials of war pouring from machines with increasing frequency, are grist for the wartime mills grinding out fanfare and publicity. The act of throwing a switch to serve another war industry with electric power is evidently regarded as prosaic by the experts, but, if it weren't for a dependable supply of electric power, many war industries would probably not have been able to roll up such magnificent production schedules.

A case in point is the immense Goodrich-Firestone synthetic rubber development at Port Neches. You've read and heard a lot about the proportions of this particular vital war industry and those who see it are awed by its immensity and the complexity of con-

struction. It lies like a wakening giant, stirring restlessly on the flat prairie as if anxious to break the bonds of sleep and throw its full power into the making of synthetic rubber.

As a matter of fact, one of the two Goodrich units is at work now and, when the plant gets into full production, it will be the largest of its kind in the world—a mighty giant with rippling muscles of electric power.

There are many machines and processes at the Port Neches plant which are motivated or activated by electric power, which you help supply. So remember, just because you don't have a hard-hat or an identification badge the size of a pie-plate to shriek to the world that you are a defense worker, you need to offer no apology for your contribution to war production.

You can take our word for it—you're in a defense industry of the first water and, when the rubber plants, or any other war industries, are commended for excellence, you can be justifiably proud that you're helping make the gigantic enterprises and excellent production records possible.

OVERSEAS CHRISTMAS PACKAGES MAY BE MAILED WITHOUT REQUEST

SEPT. 15 TO OCT. 15

According to an official bulletin just issued by the Government, Christmas packages may be mailed to American Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine servicemen overseas without presentation of a request from September 15 to October 15. Packages will be accepted for mailing only within the present limitations of weight and size—five pounds in weight, fifteen inches in length and thirty-six inches in length and girth combined, and should bear the indorsement "Christmas Gift Parcel".

Perishable articles will not be accepted for mailing, and every effort will be made to discourage the mailing of fragile articles. Only one package will be accepted for mailing by or on behalf of the same person or concern to or for the same addressee during any one week.

For the purpose of Christmas mail, the term "Overseas" personnel means men who receive their mail through a Fleet Post Office, or with an APO number through the Postmaster, at San Francisco, California, New York, N. Y. or Seattle, Washington and several other designated cities. Letters and parcels should contain in address:

ARMY—

Name, rank and serial number—

Capt. John Doe, 0468777

Company, Battalion, regiment—

67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

Army Post Office number—A. P. O. 126

Postmaster—% Postmaster, New York City

NAVY, COAST GUARD OR MARINES—

Name, rank or rating—

John Doe, MMIC (Machinists Mate

1st Class)

Naval unit or ship—USS Benham

Post Office—% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, California

Senders are cautioned that delays caused by the necessity for censorship will be minimized if the wrapping is secured so as to permit easy inspection of contents. All articles should be packed in metal, wooden or solid fiberboard or strong fully telescoping cardboard boxes. Parcels should not include any weapons, perishables, intoxicants, poisons or inflammable articles such as matches or lighter fluid and in general the public is urged not to send food or clothing.

RESIGNATIONS

Baton Rouge — L. L. Kelly, J. C. Kilroy, Jr., R. U. Reneer, W. E. Barron, J. E. Phillips, E. E. Guss, L. L. Jones, and Albert Laughlin, from production — Mabel Marchal and Freda Hyde, stenos — Patty Smith, Beatrice Lucas, Marie Justice, and Lois Waltner, from accounting — Wanda Leblanc from stores accounting — Earl Strahan, guard.

Beaumont — P. R. Martin from production — P. Renkema from line — Ruby Dickson from billing — Helen Harper from engineering — Dorothy Cope from customer accounts.

Orange — Bob Bridgewater, guard — J. C. Brister and J. N. Dees, from production — G. H. Fletcher from accounting — Dorothy Hutto from customer accounts.

Liberty — G. LeNormand, B. Williamson, and L. B. Himmelreich, from ice.

Port Arthur — Adraine Naquin from storeroom — Janey Afeman from customer contact.

Navasota — Helen Nemir, clerk — J. L. Sullivan and W. F. Buschmann, from ice.

W. J. Eddins from Silsbee ice — Ruth Gibson, Nederland cashier — Dorothy McGowen, Lake Charles customer accounts.

LET THIS BE A LESSON

When we saw Ed Green, Beaumont line foreman, limping about painfully awhile back, we naturally asked, solicitously, as to the cause, and, for our pains, we were told to mind our own blankety-blank business.

Our curiosity aroused, we checked with the accident report file. Rather than take a chance on destroying the delicate subtlety of the report on Mr. Green's accident, we print it verbatim.

"Confirming our conversation of August 26 and complying with your request for a report on a very unfortunate off-the-job accident, I hope the following does not again happen to anyone.

"On or about August 16, at approximately 6:30 p. m., I and we were trying to entice, coax, or otherwise lead a bovine creature, sometimes called a milk-cow from the backyard of my residence into the cow-lot, adjacent to the above mentioned yard through a gate that has been in place and through which said cow has been led daily since I had been unfortunate enough to have her in my possession, due largely to a generous pa-in-law. However, at this time, said cow decided against entering above mentioned gate and after much pleading and coaxing, I admit I lost my very mild temper, if I do have to say so myself, and proceeded to south end of above mentioned cow. With much haste and vigor I proceeded to encourage that cantankerous piece of a creature, that is supposed to be a milk-producer but, confidentially, should have been steaks long ago, with a swift kick where I thought it would do said creature the most good.

"It so happened my delivery was not so accurate and the results were one slightly damaged right foot, broken, sprained, or otherwise unusable for one day, during which time I indulged in much thought which I am sure will be beneficial in the future, regarding bovine etiquette.

Blushingly,

T. E. Green.

The famed White Elephant which is bestowed, at the end of each quarter, on the division having the highest accident rating for that quarter, was called in for special duty and awarded to Mr. Green for his faux pas. We understand the S.P.C.A. is quietly investigating the matter.



Beaumont Division Manager C. V. Merriam awards pachyderm to Cow-Kicker Green.

(Plain Talks—December, 1923) Among other items regarding the company's improvement program we noticed that another high-line is to be run from Beaumont to Port Arthur. Several large reels of copper have already been unloaded at the Port Arthur plant and other materials are coming in daily, being distributed along the line at the most advantageous points.

GROWING WITH GULF STATERS

(Celebrating First Birthdays of
Employees' Children)



The Fathers: C. H. Harris, Baton Rouge electrical engineering — Frank Maida, Beaumont storeroom — J. D. Jordan, Beaumont t & d — C. H. Watler, Beaumont production — Jack Kirkland, Lake Charles industrial sales — H. C. Sandefer, Liberty customer service.

No picture was available of Katherine Ann Witmer whose Pop, Guy, is in Baton Rouge production.



Maybe you heard about the fellow who was complaining about taxes and bond-buying to two of his fellow-workers—"They want us to show up every day and work our ears off," he said. "And then they come along and take out twenty percent of our pay for income tax and ask us to buy more bonds. It doesn't make sense."

"It makes a lot of sense," snapped a friend. "Who do you think has to pay for the war? All of us. Twenty percent and all the bonds we can buy is a bargain price for liberty for us and our kids. If you don't keep pitching, you'll be working for the Axis for nothing like the French and Poles."

"Yeah," chimed in another worker. "Remember six millions Russians, Chinese, British and Americans have chipped in their lives. You're plain lucky to get off so cheap, Pal."



(Plain Talks—September, 1923) That Miss Mamie Biven's (Mrs. Voyles) ability as a saleswoman is recognized in Port Arthur was clearly demonstrated recently when two merchants of that city tried to persuade her to work for them. Perhaps they were sold on the earnest manner in which she demonstrated the advantages of an electric range.

(Plain Talks—May, 1924) A. F. Gager has just become a man. He entered the meter office a few days ago, with the request for a day off. On being asked what he wanted to do, he said, "Well, tomorrow is my twenty-first birthday, and I want to go out in the woods and think." We are glad to have a man in our department that can think, even if he has to go to the woods to do it.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT GULF STATERS IN THE ARMED FORCES

This particular bit of copy is something of a small scale "command performance".

E. E. Young, formerly in Beaumont line, is off somewhere with the Navy kicking the stuffing out of Japs or Nazis, we don't know just which, and when he wrote that he enjoyed reading Plain Talks but would like for us to publish a picture of his young son, Ernest Edwin



Young, Jr., so that the can see what the young fellow looks like now, we didn't let our shirt-tail touch us until we got a picture from Mrs. Young.

Here it is, Ernie. This snapshot was taken on Junior's second birthday, July 18. Hope you like it.

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



ROBERTS

Word comes that Jessie Little, Baton Rouge steno, before she joined the WAVES, is now Mrs. Wolfe Roberts. The wedding took place at Corpus Christi, where both Jessie and her husband are stationed, on July 23. He is an instructor and Lt. (j.g.) in the Naval Air Corps.

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Myron Paul, formerly in Beaumont accounting, was one of three members of the U. S. Troop Carrier Command who were recently awarded medals for meritorious achievement during activities of the Sicilian invasion.

Myron is a captain in the air forces and is a veteran of the entire war. He received his commission in the Troop Carrier Command five days after Pearl Harbor and has been in the thick of the fight ever since. He was first assigned to an air base in England and later sent with parachute troops to Africa during that invasion. Then came the Sicilian show.



PAUL

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



MOORE

I have been waiting for a permanent address to write but it seems that a thing of that nature is unheard of in the army. It is a great life though and I like it lots.

Enjoyed my visit to Beaumont very much; was so nice seeing all of you. The only thing time passed much too quickly for me.

Thanks a lot for the copies of Plain Talks that have been sent to me. It is always so interesting to read the letters from the G.S.U. men who are in service, especially those who are in the foreign countries.

Docia H. Moore
(Orange Accounting)

I have a few spare moments to write before I go on watch from 8:00 p. m. to 12:00 p. m. on the battle lookout. Still standing 4 on and 8 off.

On the way over to Africa, we stopped in Bermuda for repairs. It is really a beautiful place. We spent one afternoon fishing and swimming off the fantail.



WILLIAMS

Just heard Jack Benny on our radio. We are now four days out from the Rock of Gibraltar in the Mediterranean where we had to go to meet the convoy. It rises clean above the clouds and is very heavily guarded by the British. I'm sure getting to see a lot of places. We are only on the Atlantic temporarily. Before I get off this ship, I'll say that I've really done some sailing.

The weather of late has been cold, rough, windy, and a little wet. (Fred Waring is on the radio now. We hear stations in the strangest places).

If the people back home think they have it hard, I wish I could take them to some of the places where our boys are stationed. It's really pitiful. The Arabs and French eat things we wouldn't touch. Their food is practically garbage and their water is contaminated. They live in pest holes. Casablanca is a good example.

Clothing here is scarce as hen's teeth. We were offered \$18 and \$20 for a \$1.10 mattress cover. For old dungaree shirts and pants we were offered \$5 and \$6. We couldn't trade or bargain with them though and lost a fortune. At those prices I would of come home in my shorts and a sack full of cash. Trying to speak and understand French is worse than Spanish. We had a devil of a time getting our money systems organized. We got gypped again as usual. They seem to think all Americans are millionaires. Durn fools!

I drank some of the wine and after about three sips my ears started burning bad, so I gave it up. Wow! Wine and beer were all we could buy. Got quite a few coins though.

Casablanca weather was ideal. Plenty cool at night and just right during the day. The harbor is filled with sunken and battered French ships which we sunk when we took it over last year. What a mess! It was all worth seeing, but I hope we don't go back. In 9 days there I got 10 hours of liberty. Even that was too much (Fibber Magee—Molly are now on. Just like home).

The trip over took 18 days. Had an 87 ship convoy safely over. Got four Nazi subs to boot.

For my battle station I wanted a place where, if anything happened, that I wouldn't have any trouble getting off the ship. I got my wish. They put me in the ammunition hole. Not only will I be the first off if we get hit, I'll also go the highest. I also sleep over it. Just to be safe (?).

We're getting a lot of dehydrated food. Gives the food an entirely different taste. Once in America though I'll make up for that. I can just see that ice cream and milk.

I now rate three campaign bars instead of the two I had. The last mail I got was dated July 3rd so I'm a little behind on the dope. Sure miss that mail.

Not sure where we're going to on the east coast yet. We have a boat load of prisoners that are tagged for Texas. Sending you all some nice playmates (or something).

Gradually learning more about my electric work. In charge of the ship's lighting when I'm on duty. Everyone has to know each other's work.

I saw some cute French gals, but no soap. When we talked to them we never knew what they said, so we just shook our heads and laughed. They did the same. You must

try it sometime. It gets foolish after a while. Some fun! (?).

What's the dope at G. S. U.? I'd like to get the little old paper they put out. Will you please ask Bill Hammond to send it to me? I'd really appreciate it.

Only a few minutes left, so I'd better close. Please write soon and tell everyone I said hello. Haven't forgotten any of the people there.

I'll mail this in the states. Feel pretty good, by the way.

Gordon Williams

(Beaumont customer accounts)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

J. W. Lamm, Jr., who was Gulf States' district serviceman in Gonzales before entering the Navy, crashed the front page of the Denham Springs News, his home-town paper, a few weeks back. Johnny received his Petty Officer, 1/C, rank in June, and is now somewhere in the South Pacific.



LAMM

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Sorry I have neglected writing to any of the gang. Tell them hello for me and I do mean it. Would like so much to see them all.

I just got back from a 12-day leave but just couldn't make it down to Lake Charles. Would certainly have liked to. We had to spend a few days in Arkansas and got down as far as Shreveport.

We may go on maneuver in Louisiana soon, so I promise to drop down to see you. Would sure like to see you all again and shoot the bull. I certainly enjoy the Plain Talks and miss the old gang so much. How about suggesting that they publish another address book of the men in service.

We spent last week on a bivouac and I have poison oak all over my arms and hands. It is very uncomfortable. I am taking some shots that should clear it up.

I promise to write more often.

Jeff Holman

(Lake Charles Accounting)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



THOMPSON

My copy of Plain Talks has been arriving regularly. Pardon me for not writing sooner to let you know how much I enjoy it.

This is the first summer I've spent in the North, and Wisconsin is much nicer now than in winter.

So long for now. Would like to hear from any of the gang.

L. L. Thompson
(Neches Station)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Just received a copy of Plain Talks. I enjoy it very much and I hope I keep getting it in the future.

I can see all the Gulf Staters are doing their part. The way we are all working together this thing can't last too long. We will try to do our part too, and I think we can, as the infantry always does.

I am overseas now and doing O.K. Can't say where I am or what we are doing, but I am eating and sleeping good. We even get fresh meat once in a while.

Clarence Schaefer
(Navasota line)



JONES

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



KIRKWOOD

I'm sorry I haven't dropped you a line sooner. I hope that every one is fine. It seems I am now an engineer—at least, that's the corps I'm in. Doing fine here. Drop me a line if you have time.

Ramey Kirkwood

(Baton Rouge production)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

The following is from a letter we recently received from Helen McClelland, sister of E. B. McClelland of Orange production:

Corporal Truman T. Hodges, former employee in Orange line department, now stationed somewhere in England, wrote me that on July 27 he received a copy of June Plain Talks which he enjoyed very much. He asked that I drop you a line and express his appreciation since he has very little time for corresponding.

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Have been receiving Plain Talks regularly, and I am glad to know that the folks back home are doing their part, as well as the boys over here. Keep up the good work.

Hope it won't be many more months before we can all be back together again.

Robert A. McGraw
(Baton Rouge gas)



MCGRAW

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



CRYER

Late as usual but now I'm passing the ammunition and kept busy. It's good to be back in Texas but this is nothing like Beaumont.

I'm way out on the gunnery range just about three miles from the salt water of Laguna Madre. It's a little rough out here with the horned toads, coyotes, deer, and other wild life. I'm really thirty miles from Harlingen and about thirty miles from Mexico.

I'm working with the Ordnance belting ammunition for the gunner students to use.

I've been here since June and was glad when my Plain Talks caught up with me. It's good to know what the boys in the service are doing and where they are. I was able to recognize Red Burges, Monty Sharpe, and Mr. Marshall in the last issue and they seemed unchanged in appearance. It's good to know the folks back on the home front are doing their best.

The little article on the Port Neches rubber plant came in handy. We were fighting the civil war as usual and the South won that round.

Keep up the good work and I'll keep passing the ammunition.

Earl M. Cryer
(Port Arthur production)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Sec. Lt. Grover S. Jeane, formerly in Lake Charles, now a flying instructor at the Advanced Two-engine Pilot School at Moody Field, Georgia, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

Just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that I have moved again. I always enjoy the Plain Talks so much and would hate to miss a single copy of it.

We are now right in the center of the fruit country and as a matter of fact we are completely surrounded by peach, plum, pear and apple trees. And the best part of it is that the farmers will give us all that we want. So for once I am getting all the fruit I want.

That's about all for now. Give my regards to all of the old gang in the office.

Rufus S. Petkovsek
(Beaumont Billing)



PETKOVSEK

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



JAMESON

Agnes Jameson, formerly in Navasota division office, has been promoted to Sergeant in the Wacs. She is stationed at Williams Field in Arizona and says she likes it fine.

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Fred Rube, who worked for the Baton Rouge Bus Company for four years, then had six months in the electric department, was in town recently on sick leave. Fred was wounded in action in the North Atlantic when his Coast Guard cutter engaged a Nazi sub (with results fatal to the sub). He was feeling good when we saw him, and was about to return to duty, after a serious and painful operation.



RUBE

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



FREDERICKS

We are due in Norfolk about daylight. So far this has been another successful trip. Went to Casablanca and Gibraltar again, convoying about 80 ships. We lost one on the way over. Some said a torpedo hit the ship, but it went down in 60 seconds. I thought that it was an inside job or an accident. She was a French tanker with 134 men aboard. We picked up 112 live ones and two dead; one was the captain. Seems he went so far down with the ship that it killed him. Did that bunch have oil on them! Our ship was in a great mess before we got them cleaned up. Try washing crude oil off with salt water! One of them gave me his fiancée's address in Casablanca. These Frenchmen will never learn.

We are bringing about 40 ships back with German prisoners aboard. One bunch tried to take over the ship against sawed-off shotguns. That was a mess also.

A carrier goes with each convoy now and the planes get the subs before we get up to them. Got a "positive" two and a "possible" two on the way back. Picked up survivors from two of them. Also found 2 Portuguese floating, one a woman. No one could speak their language, so don't know the complete story of what went with the ship.

I have worn nothing but shorts since leaving New York on June 13, and sure have a sun-tan. Hope I can get leave this trip, long enough to come home and run down to Baton Rouge. I sure would like to see all of the boys but I would LOVE to see all of the girls. These skirtless days rather run me down. The French girls use a very light but sweet perfume. You can just see it evaporat-

ing off them like steam on a hot day. Most of them must bathe in it, if they bathe at all. The Arab men never bathe, or at least they don't look like they do. You will see one of them sleeping on the ground and it looks like a pile of dirty rags with flies swarming around.

I don't remember ever seeing a small Arab girl on the streets. They're bound to be some, but they are not allowed outside.

The Rock of Gibraltar is just what the name implies. It is connected to the mainland of Spain. You can see tunnels going back into it about midway up.

A limey drinks his beer hot and you have to specify cold beer to get it.

I wonder how hard it is to get food down your way? Our food usually gets low, except for meat and spuds, before we get back to the States. I sure could go for a real vegetable dinner now.

Give my regards to every one.

We have made 36,000 miles since commissioning in February of this year. Don't think we don't get around!

J. A. Fredericks
(Baton Rouge electric)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Having just received the Plain Talks, I am reminded that I haven't even let you know that I still exist.

I would like to thank you for the Plain Talks. Hope to continue receiving it, and to be back with you soon.

It is impossible to tell you anything about what I am doing, as the censorship is pretty hard here, although I will say that I'm in foreign service and don't mind it a bit, so long as I'm helping to protect a great nation like the good old U. S. A.

Thanks again for the Plain Talks.

Clyde W. George
(Baton Rouge sales)



GEORGE

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



RICHARDSON

How is the old Steam Plant coming along? Well, boys, I finally got stationed at a medical training center. Guess I'm going to be a pill-roller. How do you like that?

This place is 'deep in the heart of Texas'—near Abilene. Am doing fine and will write more later. Best of luck to you all, and keep things going.

Gail W. Richardson
(Baton Rouge production)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Here I am again, late as usual. Have been promising myself to write every week since I was home in February, but found it so easy to put off. At last I found that I couldn't wait any longer for some good news from the old gang.

Saw in the last edition of Plain Talks where a good many more had left and had been replaced by new faces. Doubt if I will be able to find my way around when I get home again.

It seems as though things are running mighty smooth, but hope that the time is fast drawing near when we can all once again be a part of your operations.

Also saw in the Plain Talks where quite a few of our boys have received promotions, so you can add one more to that list. Since June first I have been electrician mate, first class, and really was proud to get it.

We have quite a big job here with plenty of work attached to it, and it covers almost



McKNIGHT

every phase of electricity.

Will have to close since news here is limited; let me hear from home.

T. O. McKnight
(Jackson service)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •



MURCHISON

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

W. O. (Pete) Murchison, formerly in Beaumont accounting, has been promoted to the rank of Major in the army.

Just a few lines from the army. I am receiving those issues of Plain Talks fairly regular and it sure is swell to hear about home folks again. The last issue I received, the one with Mr. Eckles picture on the cover page, contained an article about the pipeline from Spindletop to New York which interested me very much. When I brought up the subject in physic lecture last week it caused quite a bit of controversy. As a matter of the turbulent flow separating different types of petroleum arose, the physic professor discussed it with the major in charge of A.S.T.P. here and they wanted to see the article. By that time, my Plain Talks had started circulating around the barracks and I was unable to locate it. I wonder if you could send me a duplicate of that edition, plus any more information you may have concerning that pipeline. It would get me out of a crossfire between these two guys.

Carl Pfeifer
(Beaumont Engineering)



PFEIFFER

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •

Have been at sea and had no chance to write. Just pulled into a friendly harbor today so here it is.

Guess you've been reading the papers and know about as much of what is happening over here as I do. I am free to tell you that I'm in the African theatre of war and that my ship was in the initial invasion of Sicily. We landed troops and equipment on the beach between Scogitti and Gela on the Southeast Coast (Get out your map). According to accounts from our men all along the coast, we were supposed to have met the stiffest resistance. It was plenty hot but it was not exactly as hot as I expected it to be. I know all of you are wondering just how an invasion takes place (as I did before this one), so I'll try and give you a true account of how our part (which covered about 15 miles of beach) was carried out.

To begin with, you must first be familiar with the type of ship I am on. It is capable of carrying 650 tons of cargo and beaching in very shallow water (approximately 4 ft.). I can't tell you what kind of approach we made to our beachhead but you can be sure it was not a straight course from North Africa. We arrived at our rendezvous (about 8 miles off beach) about 0100 (1:00 AM) July 10. The number of ships involved is also a military secret but take it from me, it was a sight for a Louisiana Cajun like me to see. Our warships and planes laid down a barrage along that beach that must have raised holy terror with the defenders. It looked like a Fourth of July celebration on Coney Island except that the reverberations from the explosions were tremendous. About daybreak we moved in to the beach to unload our cargo. There were so many ships of our kind that my particular ship was not able to find

a suitable beach for landing until the afternoon of the next day. In the meantime we had sporadic attacks by German dive bombers which were most annoying. They were very poor shots and it would surprise you to see how they'd miss when they had so many targets to pick from. We had several very, very close misses (which made us all say a little prayer; believe me you will pray at a time like that and I don't mean maybe). On the night of July 13, we had our heaviest dive bomber attack and believe me, it was really a sight to see. My knees were really hitting together but I wouldn't have missed it for anything. The final score (not official) was eleven bombers knocked down. Six of them fell within a radius of 2000 yds. of us but of course it was hard to tell who knocked them down because all the ships were laying down a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire. It was beautiful to see those Germans catch fire and come down like a comet. I think that we knocked down two of them, but of course, we have to get them confirmed. Our ship packs a pretty stiff wallop when it comes to A.A. fire and I dare say that more than one Jerry veered away from us and missed because he didn't feel like flying through the ring of tracers which we were throwing up. Damage to our entire fleet was negligible considering the number involved. All in all, it was not half as bad as I thought it would be, but I think it was mainly due to the wonderful job our airforce did in cleaning up the enemy airfields before we landed. Of course, I had a few little personal experiences too, which I will tell you about when I get back. I was such a minor part of such a tremendous undertaking that I really felt insignificant. I will say this though, that one really has a helpless feeling when subjected to a night bombing attack when you cannot see your assailant. Believe me, you get scared stiff, then you get as mad as fury. I proved one point that I've always wanted to—that is—that it's just like shooting ducks except that the ducks don't shoot back. I do believe a pilot knows how a duck must feel when a load of shot is coming up at him.

All in all, it was not so bad. It could have been worse. Hoping to get back for Christmas if we're still afloat—and believe me we're not very easy to sink.

Z. T. (Jack) Cart
(Lake Charles power sales)

• WRITE 'EM TODAY •
AN APPEALING NOTE



That was a grand picture of Wesley Eckles on the cover of Plain Talks. The expression on his face shows contentment.



HENRY

I'm still fighting the batt'e of Los Angeles, assisted by numerous WAACS, WAVES, SPARS, etc. From all indications it looks as if my brigade will soon be in some American theater of operations. A few of our boys are already eating spaghetti in Sicily and several of my friends in another regiment took part in the Attu affair. However, there is a slight possibility that we may be kept here for Western Defense.

At present my work is with radar in a searchlight outfit which is terribly interesting. This weapon is wonderful and I would like to tell you about it but am afraid the army might object.

There are many unusual things to see in the Los Angeles area. A soldier never has an idle moment during his time off, for there are so many broadcasts, wonderful orchestras, celebrities and what have you to entertain us. People in this section of the country are extra nice to men in the armed services, for example; ladies of different organizations bring sandwiches, cakes, fruit and entertainment to our headquarters practically every night. Another thing, they take care of our sewing needs. The party who so kindly mends my uniforms is none other than the wife of Mr. Stone, RKO's labor relations manager and sister of the actor Jimmy Ellison. Can you beat that?

It was my pleasure to witness the All Star baseball game on August 21st. There was Red Ruffing, Joe Dimaggio, Max West, Hoag & Danning which sounds like the Who's Who of baseball, Joe E. Brown, the sponsor, gave a very touching talk before the game. As you know, his son was killed in action sometime ago.

I would like to take you back for a moment to San Francisco, for that is the grandest city in California. The climate there is wonderful and makes a "feller" feel young and frisky. Ponce de Leon traveled in the wrong direction, he should have gone west.

Frisco is unusually picturesque and has an atmosphere all its own. The Golden Gate bridge is a man made miracle. The Oakland bridge, which connects San Francisco, Treasure Island and Oakland is likewise a marvel. I mustn't forget to mention the beautiful view (and I don't mean Alcatraz) you get from the top of the Mark Hopkins hotel for it is wonderful even if you haven't had a couple of Zombies. Chinatown with its various sights and entertainments is alone worth a trip to S. F. There I heard Gene Austin breathe forth his immortal "Blue Heaven" which I hope can be truthfully sung throughout these United States before very long.

My youngest brother Dan is in Hawaii and reports that the movies are right in regard to scenery, etc., though the Pearl Harbor incident changed the traffic along the beaches. The oldest Henry boy is Commanding Officer of the 20th division at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

The general public is much more optimistic about the war than I. There is going to be plenty of hard fighting before this thing is over.

Joe M. Henry
(Beaumont t & d)

"Write and keep writing to the men who keep fighting"

DIED IN LINE OF DUTY

Edward E. Warren—May 15, 1942

Ray A. Blanchard—October 31, 1942

Last Minute News



DUE



ALLEY



BURNS



WEBB



EWING



SMITH



THOMPSON



LOPEZ

NEW EMPLOYEES

Jewel Due, Beaumont messenger — Bertha Thompson, Beaumont customer accounts — Nettie Webb, Beaumont appliance repair — Lillian Alley, Navasota clerk.

TO THE ARMED FORCES

D. E. Smith, Beaumont line, to the army.

TRANSFERS

J. N. Lopez, Baton Rouge, sales to gas — W. B. Ewing, line, Liberty to Beaumont.

BIRTHS

Becoming a father is quite an event but when you welcome twins, as did Hubert Burns, Jasper customer service, September 14, it's a super-event. We couldn't get the names of the boys because the Burns' were looking for only one young'un and had chosen only one name and had to start over from taw.

RESIGNATIONS

E. F. Bridler, Orange production — E. Fillingame, Beaumont line — L. E. Woods, Huntsville ice — F. Sharp, Somerville service — Monte Stewart, Beaumont production clerk — Lois Nixon, Somerville cashier.

Recently a Naval pilot flying a Kingfisher observation-scout plane in search of enemy submarines off the east coast, in response to radio orders, sped to a spot where a "sub sighted" report had been flashed.

Arriving over the spot, the Kingfisher pilot quickly located a suspicious "swirl." Lightning-like action was indicated. Submarines crash-dive to safe depths within a few seconds. There was no time for thoughtful identification. Flashing in a dive, the Kingfisher pilot pulled the lever and released his depth charges. Direct hits! Right on the target!

Pulling up, the pilot circled to observe the results of the attack. Dark objects bobbed to the surface, some large, some small. A Coast Guard cutter arrived and steamed into the debris. Her crew at once started dragging the objects onto the cutter's deck.

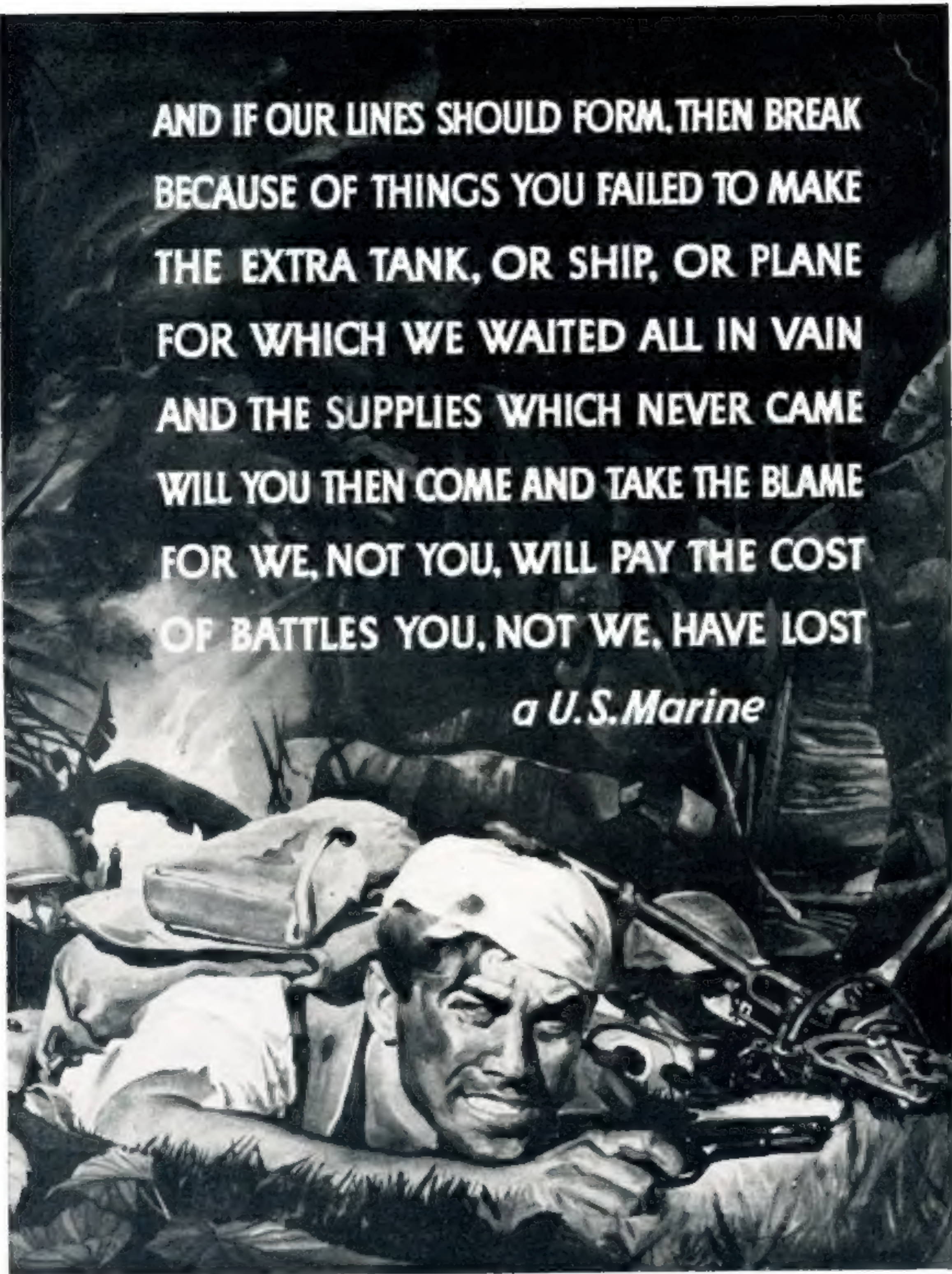
The anxious pilot finally opened up on his radio.

"What is it?" he asked.

"Whale meat," came the reply from the cutter in blinker light, "But good!"

AND IF OUR LINES SHOULD FORM, THEN BREAK
BECAUSE OF THINGS YOU FAILED TO MAKE
THE EXTRA TANK, OR SHIP, OR PLANE
FOR WHICH WE WAITED ALL IN VAIN
AND THE SUPPLIES WHICH NEVER CAME
WILL YOU THEN COME AND TAKE THE BLAME
FOR WE, NOT YOU, WILL PAY THE COST
OF BATTLES YOU, NOT WE, HAVE LOST

a U.S. Marine



*A convenient way to buy War Savings
Bonds is through payroll deductions . .
A convenient time to increase your
subscription is NOW!*